

John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues $15.00
Life Membership $375.00

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The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1800 B-18, BB-193 silver dollar. Both obverse and reverse dies used to strike this die marriage only. Very rare late die state. Obverse with die failure at stars 2 & 3, an arc like break connecting star 1 with star 4 and another connecting star 8 with star 11. Extensive die clashing and die breaks on reverse. Photo courtesy of ANA.

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Editors' Comments

Greetings and welcome to the new year, millennium, and issue of **The John Reich Journal**. If the old saying of "absence makes the heart grow fonder" we must be the most beloved journal in all numismatics. Obtaining quality articles for publication in the journal in never an easy task, but one that is ultimately very rewarding. By submitting something for publication the authors are eligible to receive the Jules Reiver Literary Award given annually for the most popular article to have appeared in the previous volume of the JRJ. Last years winner was Russell Logan for his article *Capped Bust Half Dollar Patterns and Related Issues* which appeared in issue #37. Russ was presented with his plaque at the ANA convention in Philadelphia last summer. You too could be the proud recipient of the award if you would submit something for publication in a future journal.

Included in this issue of the journal is the much anticipated Bust Dollar Census. The dollar collectors in the JRCS have gone out of their way to provide their information for the enjoyment of the club. Many changes have been made since the last time we published this census. One of the biggest changes is in making David Perkins the census keeper for the dollar series. David is an officer in the organization, noted dollar collector and researcher, as well as a past recipient of the Reiver award. He welcomes any comments on the current dollar census that you may have. Please write to him care of the society.

Another feather in the caps for two founding fathers of the society is the book of the year award from the Numismatic Literary Guilde. Russell Logan and John McCloskey earned the award from the Guilde for their book **Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837.** The awards criteria for the best book is defined as "the work having the greatest potential impact on numismatics". Congratulations to the authors on a job well done!

The officers of JRCS would like to remind the membership that some back issues are still available. They are available for $5 each to members of the society postpaid. For more information on what is available you can contact me at the PO Box. I would suggest newer members of the society order the index for volumes 1-10 that was issued in 1997. It contains a listing of the articles that appeared in the first ten volumes listed by subject and also by author. Other information about the society are also included. I refer to it often to find an article that has previously appeared in our journal. I think you will also find it a useful research tool.

I would also like to take a moment to thank our program chairman James Matthews for his interesting presentation at our annual meeting in Philadelphia. His

knowledge of the inner workings of the industry provided many interesting antidotes for the audience. The information on coin cleaning and doctoring was very enlightening for many of us who purchase classic coins. Jim will be planning the program for the next ANA in Atlanta soon. Let us know if you have any interest in giving a presentation at the annual meeting.

The Capped Bust Half Dollar collectors in the club may be interested to know that there is a new attribution guide available. Dr. Glenn Peterson released through the Money Tree Press, his photographic attribution guide as a companion book to the Overton book. The book was released at the Philadelphia ANA and was well received by the collecting community. Upcoming releases will include a new book by Edgar Souders, author of **Bust Half Fever**. We will be anxiously anticipating this new addition to our libraries. In the field of bust quarters there are two research projects underway. Jim Koenings and Rory Rea are working on a photographic guide of condition census quarters for the rarer varieties. They are interested in photographing any R5-8 bust quarters for their work. They also plan on doing the other series of bust coins in the future. They can be reached at: Jim Koenings, PO Box 2382, Riverside, CA 92516. Also, Dr. Glenn Peterson and I are currently working on a revision to the Browning Quarter attribution guide. We would be interested in hearing from any collectors with unusual die states or other information concerning the series. We can be reached at the societies PO Box.

2000 was an interesting and exciting year for collectors of bust coinage. There were two major discoveries made in die variety collecting as illustrated in articles in this issue. First, a long lost soul was found, the 1795 O132 half dollar. You can read about it in the article submitted by our program chairman, Jim Matthews. This variety had been missing for decades and was widely believed to not exist. The proof is now before us and for sale in the near future. This gives us more hope that someday the reported, and still unconfirmed, marriage in 1827 of Obverse 11 and Reverse E will turn up making an even 50 marriages for the year.

The second, and most surprising discovery, was the confirmation of a new marriage in the bust quarters. David Lange at NGC has provided the information on the new marriage in his article found later in this issue. The discovery of a new die for any series of bust coinage in a major story, as the series have now been thoroughly researched with comprehensive manuals available for study for many years. Many collectors, and cherrypickers, have scoured the inventories of dealers throughout the country searching for scarce and rare marriages. Finding an unrecorded marriage is the dream of every numismatist. We appreciate the opportunity to present the information to you in our pages. The search now begins for the second specimen.

Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

JRCS Ms. Draped Bust a Fraud?

It's often written that the model used for Liberty on Draped Bust coins was socialite Anne Willing Bingham, friend of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, daughter of the mayor of Philadelphia, and wife of a US Senator from Pennsylvania. Yet some numismatic scholars dispute that it was she who was the model.

In his **Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins**, copyright 1988, Walter Breen makes this connection and documents it with a footnote that references page 177 of the book **Washington and National Medals** by former US Mint director James Snowden, copyright 1861. However, Snowden does not make this connection at all. All Snowden does is suggest that Gilbert Stuart created the sketch that was used by Mint engraver Robert Scot in designing the Draped Bust coins. He doesn't even mention Anne Bingham.

Journalist Reid Goldsborough is trying to find earlier references to Anne Bingham and Draped Bust coins. If any eminently edified readers of this journal know of such references, feel free to contact him at reidgold@netaxs.com.

JRCS Reich Gold Specialists?

Do you know of anyone in the JRCS that specializes in early (pre-1840) U.S. gold, that may be familiar with the nuances and varieties of specific dates? I'm especially interested in the 1829-1839 period, as I've made some curious observations. Do you know if there is any reference material available on varieties of Classic Head and Capped Bust gold coins, perhaps including which dates and varieties included proof issues?

Ken Cable-Camilleis
JRCS #801

JRCS New Book Lights The Way for New Collector
©Copyright 2000 by Michael E. Marotta

The Ultimate Guide to Attributing Bust Half Dollars by Glenn Peterson is well worth the $100 pricetag. For once, I actually bought the book before I bought the coin. I never owned

a Capped Bust Half before acquiring this book. It allowed me to enjoy correctly attributing my purchases far beyond the guesswork of the dealers.

On Sunday, October 8, I attended a local coin show in Lansing, Michigan. About 20 dealers were present. I asked about Bust Halves. I saw all kinds. (A collector showed me the nicest Capped Bust Half on the floor. He bought it at a recent FUN convention.) Many of the examples were dipped out. One had been retoned with what appeared to be gun bluing. Most of the so-called Mint State coins had obvious wear across every high point.

The dealer who had the most "high grade" coins was regarded as an expert by other dealers. I was polite and even found nice things to day about his coins, and I thanked him and I left knowing that I had seen the worst junk on the floor. For the money this dealer was asking, the collector I met had purchased a true Mint State coin, in a PCGS holder, with original surfaces – or at least expertly doctored to a point that it did not matter. None of the Bust Halves at the Lansing show was slabbed, nor could they be. Looking at this collector's Capped Bust Half Dollar was like meeting a nun at a convention of whores.

However, I did find three fallen angels to take home. After examining every Bust Half on the floor twice, I bought one from Meridian Coins of Okemos and two from Liberty Coins of Lansing.

Despite some related research I published last year for *Coin World*, I really knew nothing about attributing Bust Halves before I sat down with my new purchases to identify them. Glenn Peterson's *Ultimate Guide to Attributing Bust Halves* made it easy.

The first coin took about 20 minutes. The second went faster and the third was over before it was fun. Peterson promises a "scientific methodology." (He is a medical doctor.) This book passes that standard. Peterson examined over 9,000 Bust Halves in order to discover telltale parameters that allow easy identification of every die. He settled on the I in PLURIBUS relative to the T in STATES. It works.

Peterson's charts and drawings are the key to his fantastic blow-up photographs.

Scientifically validating an assertion requires applying independent standards, literally, standards that do not depend on each other. In numismatics, this is difficult because so many works rest on so few. However, I did compare my findings via Peterson with the results I obtained from The Red Book and Breen's Encyclopedia. There was no contradiction.

The book costs $99.95 (plus $4 s/h) hard-bound and $89.95 (plus $4 s/h) in spiral binding. The publisher is Money Tree Press, 1260 Smith Court, Rocky River, Ohio 44116.

J. H. South Collection of United States Quarters

W. David Perkins, NLG

Although not a collector or student of Bust Quarters, I was inspired by Karl Moulton's article "Ten Favorite Bust Auction Catalogues" (*John Reich Journal*, Vol. 13, Issue 1, pages 26-30). I would like to report on a collection of United States Quarters that I came across recently. I will leave it up to Karl and the quarter collectors to analyze this collection and place it "in its proper spot" among collections of early quarters (by Browning numbers). [***I would be interested in knowing more about J. H. South*** *(as he also had a nice date / major type collection of early United States silver dollars 1795-1803). There is also a* ***collector named "Tracey Turner"*** *referenced in the pedigrees of some of the South coins. Any information on Turner would also be appreciated.*]

Please note I have not studied the early quarters, nor have I attempted to verify grades or attributions of any of the specimens in this sale. Many early silver dollars in this timeframe were misattributed as to die marriage - I assume some of the same is likely true for the quarter dollars. My intent is to simply point out this sale and to pick out a few items of possible interest. I encourage those interested to acquire a copy of this sale catalog for further study. And to report your findings / thoughts / comments to the *John Reich Journal*!

The J. H. South collection of United States quarters was offered at public auction by Stack's on Saturday, May 26, 1951. The cataloger noted in the introduction to the sale of the quarter dollars:

> This collection is noteworthy for its condition and varieties. To be fully appreciated this collection must be seen. All are described by the Browning (B) numbers, a noted authority.

The sale opened with three high grade 1796 quarter dollars, listed as 1796 B-2, 1796 B-2a and 1796 B-2c. There were no quarters dated 1804. Quarters dated 1805 included multiple examples of B-2 and B-3. Quarters for 1806 included three different die states of 1806 B-9. All in all there were 21 quarters dated 1805-1807!

Of possible interest to those tracking appearances and/or condition census for rare die marriages, there was a 1818 B-6 described as follows:

> 415 1818 B. 6, Perfect die. Bold impression, well centered. Uncirculated, rare variety.

I note in the B&M *The Chris Schenkel Collection Sale* catalog (which was listed as one of Karl's two Bust Quarter catalog choices) under lot 1409, an 1818 B-6 quarter:

> Although listed as Rarity-5 by Jules Reiver in his *Variety Identification Manual for United States Quarter Dollars*, Walter Breen's research indicates that the variety is really **High Rarity-6**. His census includes a scant 14 specimens grading from Uncirculated to Good, and only 7 of these are fully VF or better.

Unfortunately, this lot was not plated in the sale catalog.

Also of possible interest is lot 416, an 1818 B-7 cataloged (but not plated) as follows:

416 1818 B-7, Uncirculated with full mint lustre. Splendid strike. Choice and very rare.

A second specimen of 1818 B-7 in the South collection was called "very fine and very rare." Bowers noted in the Chris Shenkel sale catalog under lot 1410, an 1818 B-7 in AU-55:

> Walter Breen has been able to trace only seven specimens grading from AU to Good, and indicates that the die combination is really **Rarity 6 to 7**. The finest example in Mr. Breen's census is a AU piece from the Robison Collection, which is listed as being "unverified." Significantly, the second finest specimen in the census is listed as being just "VF or better."

Overall the South collection sale had approximately 120 lots of early quarters 1796-1838, many in high grades. It appears that South collected die states where possible, indicated by small letters a, b, c, etc. following the Browning numbers. There were 16 plates for quarters dated 1796-1828, and 7 plates of quarters 1831-1838. All plates showed both the obverse and reverse.

Comments and further study from early quarter dollar experts are encouraged!



Comments and Observations About
The J.H. South Collection
Karl Moulton

Having read an advance draft of David Perkins' article about the J.H. South United States Quarters, I'd like to add some background information about some of the people and events surrounding this particular sale.

Reading through the catalogue one would believe that the Stack brothers, Joseph and Morton, did an in-depth job at descriptions and attributions of the early U.S. material offered in the sale. In the Bust Quarter section Browning attributions are found, along with suffixes to denote various die states. This was quite advanced for the time with only *The World's Greatest Collection* by Abe Kosoff in 1945-6 being compiled in the same manner. There are even two pages of black and white plates for both the quarters and the early dollars. So much for the good part.

The first questionable sentence is, "From the Tracy Turner Collection". This is part of the description found in the first quarter lot, #375, offering a 1796 B-2 described as "a perfect proof..." Years of looking for any clues about Turner has turned up absolutely nothing; even though he is pedigreed with buying coins from the Virgil Brand collection in descriptions for several lots later on. In the early dollar section the name has been spelled differently to read "Tracey Turner", as seen in lot #755. This puts a big dent in the credibility of the listed "Turner" pedigree.

Along the same line is the total lack of confirmation of the existence of "J.H. South". An earlier February 24, 1951, sale by Stack's lists impressive Large Cent and early half-dollar consignments from J.H. South. Much of the choice material is from the Dr. George French, Col. E. H.R. Green, and Waldo Newcomer collections, which were supposedly dispersed in the 1930's and early 1940's. Perhaps another researcher can help to validate the pedigrees of the "J.H. South" collection. As Perkins mentioned in his article, I, too, would be interested in knowing anything reliable about "South" or "Turner".

Did J.H. South Really Exist?

Probably not. After untold hours of fruitless research, my opinion is that this was a fabricated name for consignments coming from Wayte Raymond. He had handled coins from all of the above named collections, lived in the Long Island, New York area (Mineola & Montauk), and was no longer conducting auctions of his own. Keep in mind Raymond had a rather large inventory of nice material from having been in the coin business for nearly 50 years.

It must be remembered that four years earlier Stack's had conducted a most impressive sale where the main consignor was listed as "H.R. Lee". In the introduction they mention,

> *"We begin by expressing our gratitude to that outstanding collector, H.R. Lee... Mr. Lee covered practically all the United States series... Mr. Lee spent decades gathering his collection..."*

From this glowing commentary everyone at the sale should have known the identity of "Mr. Lee"; but, alas, there never was a "Mr. H.R. Lee". Today, we know that it was none other than Louis Eliasberg, Sr., who used his mother's and his initials to form the pseudonym "H.R. Lee".

The same thing had happened earlier in 1944 with the Stack's firm in cataloguing the "J.F. Bell" sale. "J.F. Bell" was a pseudonym for Jacob Shapero of Chicago. So, we see that just because a sale has a named consignor doesn't necessarily mean it is the name of a real person. If J.H. South was a collector, he did not leave any paper trail to verify his involvement with the "Turner" collection, the Stack's firm, or anything else involving numismatics.

Walter Breen's Involvement

Among the people attending this sale was Walter Breen. At the time, he was a rising numismatic researcher and was focusing on the early federal issues. He examined the Capped Bust Quarters offered in this sale only to find a fair number of them to be mis-attributed by the Stack brothers.

This is readily apparent by examining the coins that are plated. One of the more obvious mis-attributions is the scarce 1825/2 B-1 designated as a common B-2, Lot #466. It was catalogued as uncirculated. Two lots later there is an 1825 B-23. Is this a 'take your pick – we aren't sure of the variety' attribution? Who knows? Actually, it was a B-2 variety according to the plate.

It gets worse. Breen described five different 1818 mis-attributions in the 1992 Browning revision. These were B-5, B-6 (see Perkins' article), B-8, B-9, and B-10. Among other quarters noted by Breen as being mis-attributed in this sale were the 1806 B-4, 1821 B-2, 1821 B-5, 1828 B-2, 1831 B-1 and B-1, 1835 B-5, and 1836 B-2. This level of mis-attributed coins make me wonder how much time the cataloguers used in checking the Browning book. Obviously, not enough time was spent comparing the actual coins to plates and descriptions to come up with an acceptable percentage of proper attributions. A new variety, the 1820 B-5, was supposedly first reported by Breen at this sale. It, too, was mis-attributed as a B-4.

One thing that is puzzling is that if the coins came from Raymond, who published the Browning quarter dollar work in 1925, how or why were the quarters mis-attributed in so many cases? Of all people, he would have known. This leads us to assume the cataloguers did the attributions. One logical conclusion about the correct attributions is that since

Raymond and Breen were on such good terms, he had supplied Breen with an accurate list to verify the mis-attributions after the catalogue had been printed and sent out. It should be noted that Raymond commissioned Breen to do numismatic research in the National Archives shortly after this sale took place.

While I hardly concur with Walter Breen on many issues, at this point in time he was doing credible research and still used his facilities properly, so I tend to agree with his listed attributions of the "South" quarters when compared to the Stack brothers' cataloguing. Both of the cataloguers have passed away and no discredit is meant to the Stack's firm as the same thing can be found in all other catalogues of the era where attributions are listed.

Unfortunately, much of Breen's later writing, especially about early bust quarters, was not based on fact. This had led to repeated stories and myths that need to be discontinued by all authors and cataloguers. Just a few of these are:

1). The four 1827 over-dated quarters obtained for face value at the Mint in 1827 story. Joseph J. Mickley's first recorded visit to the Mint was on May 29, 1841, as confirmed by U.S. Mint Visitor Registers. This story was contrived in part by W.E. Woodward in his January 1884 Heman Ely sale where he was offering an Original 1827 over-dated quarter. The actual foundation of this story came from A.M. Smith in his U.S. Mint publications beginning in early 1880, just after Mickley's death in 1878. Breen picked up on Woodward's story after 70 years and promoted it extensively in the 1950's and '60's when he was cataloguing for New Netherlands Coin Company.

It was constantly changed and manipulated to the point of ridiculousness until Breen's writings labeled the Norweb collection example, sold by Bowers and Merena in March, 1988, to be *"J.J. Mickley's Favorite"*. Of course this was "Mickley Favorite", it was his only one! Also, in this catalogue a passage that Breen wrote reads, *"All stars show centers, which is probably why Mickley kept this one when he sold the others."* There is no verifiable record that Mickley ever owned more than one example (the Reakirt/Norweb coin) or of him selling any duplicate 1827 over-dated quarters. On a more recent note, Q. David Bowers has often reprinted Woodward's unconfirmed story in his many publications.

2). In Breen's 1988 Encyclopedia, p. 340, we see the "E & L" counter-stamped issues were first noticed in the 1870's. That's an extremely vague guess that spans 10 years, and even then it's not correct. Actually, the first appearance anywhere was in the December 12, 1881, John Haseltine sale, lot #915. His "English" and "Latin" conjecture has absolutely no validity. All awards of merit by schools, during this time frame were in the form of paper certificates. Plus, there are no over-dated 1825 B-3's known with a counter-stamp.

3). Then there's the completely unfounded Breen belief that there was an "R" counter-stamped Capped Bust Quarter. THERE ARE NO "R"s! It was merely a typographical error in an early Lyman Low sale that Breen apparently saw or heard about at some point, according to reliable second-hand information. The letters "E" and "R" are right next to each

other on the keyboard. One final correction is that the counter-stamps are not always in the exact same spot. Since they were punched in after striking, there is a noticeable variation in relation to the dentils. The author has seen 3 different tilting positions on the 1815 E, with a few being double stamped.

4). As seen in the 1988 Breen Encyclopedia, p. 338, the 1796 quarter with a cracked obverse die was supposedly discovered in a Glendining & Co. sale in March 1935. This is incorrect information as there were several earlier listings in various American sales. One of the earliest traced by the author can be found in H.P. Smith's April 15, 1887, sale of the Charles White collection, Pt. 2, lot #317. Also, there is no verifiable contemporary U.S. Mint documentation referring to any "presentation strikings" of any 1796 quarters (or any other open collar coinage for that matter). Both of the known varieties can be found in proof-like, uncirculated condition and exhibiting a full head on the eagle. All of the third party grading services have not, and cannot, offer any official U.S. Mint criteria to substantiate their "Presentation piece" designations. They have labeled these as such, based solely on Breen's influence and commercial greed. For everyone's sake, let's stop having to read Breen's fables.

Proper Cataloguing Practices

We can see, the "South" Collection of Bust Quarters was impressive with regard to the quantity and quality. Of the 119 lots, 36 were catalogued as uncirculated. At the time this was an important early U.S. material offering, even though there were just as many Ancients included as there were bust quarters and dollars combined.

This sale, because of hurried or improper cataloguing, descends to second rate for research purposes. The uncertainty of the names listed tends to discredit the actual owners and puts a large question mark in the important pedigree chain. Regrettably, we see this practice of using pseudonyms and fabrications continuing to this very day. This does not help promote a positive influence with the hobby. **Sensationalism and untrue statements have no place in numismatics; this includes the commercial arena.**

As a numismatic researcher and historian, my plea to all auction cataloguers is that if anonymity is not required, please list the actual names and provide accurate information about the main listed consignors. The American numismatic past has been screwed up long enough; let the present and future numismatists deal with truth. We will all benefit immeasurably if this practice is adopted and strictly adhered to.

I applaud David Perkins' efforts to go outside his field of interest in order to further discussion, which in turn adds to the pool of knowledge. Every person interested in numismatics has a story to relate. So go ahead, compose something. We all learn from reading what others have to say, whether we agree or not. One thing to remember is: all numismatic knowledge is acquired.



1836 B1 Bust Quarter Remarriage

Glenn Peterson

Brad Karoleff and I are working on an attribution text on Bust Quarters. The research was begun by my Tennessee friend Larry Blackwelder who had researched and collected bust quarters for years. When his priorities changed and he sold his quarters Brad and I decided, with Larry's enthusiastic support, to finish the project. In the course of our research we have uncovered a number of remarriages in the quarter series. Here our attention is on the shared reverse of 1835 B8, 1836 B1, 1836 B5, 1837 B1, 1837 B3 and 1837 B4. The earliest use of this reverse that I have found has a microscopic crack across STATES in 1836 B1. It is rumored to come with no crack, but I have not seen such an example. The crack through STATES is in fact so fine that the dealer selling me the coin said it lacked any crack. So I cannot verify the perfect die state. 1835 B8 similarly was reported to have no crack but I have not yet verified this die state.



1836 B1a First marriage microscopic crack STATE

After this use of the reverse die to produce 1836 B1 it appears to be used for 1837 B4 in which the crack extends from STATE-rim. Later in the use within the same die pair the crack extends from D of UNITED to STATES and to rim. From 1837 B4 the reverse appears to next be used to produce 1835 B8 with a fine crack D STATES-rim. Next it returns to 1836 B1 with a slightly thicker crack in the same location. Placement of the 1835 B8 before the second marriage of 1836 B1 is a bit tentative in as much as there is only a minute difference between the two. Regardless of the placement of the 1835 B8 the remarriage of 1836 is established by the intervening use of the die to produce 1837 B4.

The obverse of 1836 B1 progresses in an interesting way as well. The microscopically cracked reverse comes with an obverse with a crack from temple to neck. The crack through STATE becomes a bit wider and the obverse crack continues down to curls and rim right of 6 and also up to S7-rim and a branch to B of LIBERTY on the final die state of the first marriage. On the second marriage of 1836 B1 the branch to B now extends to the rim over the cap. Finally the second marriage breaks up



1837 B4 Crack STATE-Rim

with additional cracks of the main crack to chin-S1-rim and to curls-S13 to rim.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has examples of 1836 B1 with absolutely no crack on the reverse or 1835 B8 with no crack. I am also searching for evidence to support other remarriages including:
1807 B1 dies perfect- no crack at ST or UNI
1820 B5 crack at E1 and no crack at A2
1821 B4 no crack at E1 or A2.
1834 B3 with no minute crack S7-cap-S8, no clashmarks at ears (ear bars)
1834 B5 with no minute crack S7-cap-S8, no clashmarks at ears (ear bars)

Finally, we would appreciate feedback regarding rarity rating of bust quarters from those who collect them enough to have become familiar with the relative rarity of the die marriages. Please copy the following survey and send it and all suggestions to:

Glenn Peterson 9301 Park West Blvd., Knoxville TN 37923



1836 B1a Observe crack only temple to neck



1836 B1b Observe crack temple to rim right of date



1835 B8 Crack D STATE-Rim



1836 B1e Second marriage
wider crack D STATE-Rim



1836 B1e Obverse crack rim-fore-curl
temple-neck-rim right of 6, rim near
star 1-chin star 13-curls



1836 B1e Enlargement showing
split levels above and below star 7

Please list your revisions to the JRCS rarity ratings as follows:

DATE	B#	JRCS Rarity	Comments	DATE	B#	JRCS Rarity	Comments
1796	B1	R6		1818	B3	R5	
1796	B2	R3		1818	B4	R2	
1804	B1	R4		1818	B5	R4	
1804	B2	R6		1818	B6	R5	
1805	B1	R5		1818	B7	R4	
1805	B2	R3		1818	B8	R3	
1805	B3	R1		1818	B9	R6	
1805	B4	R4		1818	B10	R4	
1805	B5	R7		1819	B1	R5	
1806	B1	R2		1819	B2	R3	
1806	B2	R4		1819	B3	R1	
1806	B3	R1		1819	B4	R5	
1806	B4	R4		1820	B1	R3	
1806	B5	R6		1820	B2	R2	
1806	B6	R6		1820	B3	R3	
1806	B7	R3		1820	B4	R2	
1806	B8	R7		1820	B5	R5	
1806	B9	R1		1821	B1	R2	
1806	B10	R5		1821	B2	R3	
1807	B1	R3		1821	B3	R2	
1807	B2	R3		1821	B4	R3	
1815	B1	R1		1821	B5	R5	
1818	B1	R2		1821	B6	R7	
1818	B2	R1		1822	B1	R2	
1822	B2	R5		1834	B2	R4	
1823	B1	R6		1834	B3	R3	
1824	B1	R3		1834	B4	R1	
1825	B1	R5		1834	B5	R5	
1825	B2	R2		1835	B1	R1	
1825	B3	R3		1835	B2	R2	
1827	B1	R7		1835	B3	R4	
1827	B2	R6		1835	B4	R3	
1828	B1	R1		1835	B5	R3	
1828	B2	R3		1835	B6	R3	
1828	B3	R3		1835	B7	R2	
1828	B4	R3		1835	B8	R4	
1831	B1	R3		1836	B1	R2	
1831	B2	R2		1836	B2	R3	
1831	B3	R5		1836	B3	R1	
1831	B4	R1		1836	B4	R5	
1831	B5	R3		1836	B5	R7	
1831	B6	R3		1837	B1	R4	
1831	B7	R7		1837	B2	R1	
1832	B1	R1		1837	B3	R4	
1832	B2	R2		1837	B4	R4	
1833	B1	R2		1837	B5	R6	
1833	B2	R1		1837	B6	R8	
1834	B1	R1		1838	B1	R1	

Lost and Found – A Provenance Renewed

P. Reid Suttles

I recently found a numismatic lost soul. She was represented by an inconspicuous listing in the recent Heritage Santa Clara Signature auction. This once preeminent silver dollar had been relegated to an unplated, four line entry on a two column page. As an early dollar variety collector, I paused over this entry in reviewing the catalog. My normal routine is to check rarity ratings and whether any coins are in, or approach, the condition census. This one was an R5 variety and just below the C.C. I have the same variety in EF 45 NGC but out of curiosity, I pulled up the image on the internet to have a look. The catalog description read EF45 PCGS. It easily looked better than the one I have and mine is a solid EF 45. Now I was intrigued. The catalog description read "...no mentionable abrasions and the striking definition is superb...A seemingly undergraded example". I could not figure why PCGS had given it an EF grade. The coin was well struck, wear appeared minimal, and significant luster was evident. Now, this coin definitely had my attention. Since the internet site allows one to enlarge the coin, I studied the details. This appeared to be an AU coin which would put it in the condition census. So I read through the descriptions of the notable specimens listed in David Bowers' **Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia**. I was captivated by the similarity between this coin and the Newcomer specimen. Both were well struck, intermediate die states, with multicolored toning, and well centered. There was one description that I kept revisiting. Both of these coins had a "reverse field nick (in stars) near eagle's head" as described in Bowers. I kept thinking that I would have described the Heritage coin exactly that way. The nick was very distinctive. I watched the bidding on the internet as others became interested in this coin. I decided to follow my instincts and accordingly placed a strong bid which, thankfully, secured the lot.

As soon as it arrived, I cracked it out. There was one more distinguishing feature to check out. A "minute" rim bruise was mentioned in Bowers as being present on the right obverse. I could not be positive from the internet image but one denticle on the right was shiny and appeared elongated slightly. As I checked my new acquisition, it did have a tiny bruise at that location and more importantly, no other rim bruises. I felt I had a winner. But I don't have the old catalogs to check plates, so I e-mailed Dave Perkins with whom I correspond, related that I may have the 1798 B-30 Newcomer coin, and could he provide a plate of it for me. Dave responded that he could but that he thought he knew who had the Newcomer. He also e-mailed me his JRJ article [Jan. 1995] on the B-30 in which he had determined that the Newcomer and the Baldenhofer specimens were the same. I was not deterred. In reading through the Baldenhofer description I found the "fine double profile" reference as well as the exact location of the rim bruise. Under magnification, my coin has noticeable doubling on

the nose, lips and lower jaw line. The Bowers' Baldenhofer reference noted a "tiny rim bruise opposite 10th star". Bingo! Mine was a match. It was now only a short wait for Dave to e-mail the relevant auction plates for absolute confirmation. I compared the plates from the New Netherlands 48th sale [T. James Clarke] in 1956, as well as Superior's Gilhousen sale in 1973 and the ANA Convention sale in 1975. All were the same coin and they all matched mine.



Obverse-Reverse of The Newcomer 1798 B-30 Dollar showing the distinctive mark behind the eagles head, which identifies this particular coin.

Now, the questions that intrigue me about the Newcomer coin are how did it get graded EF 45 and how could its provenance get "lost" twice? It had gone from Waldo C. Newcomer's collection to B. Max Mehl and on to Col. E.H.R. Green's collection before being sold in the T. James Clarke sale in 1956. It did not surface again at auction until Superior Galleries had the C.E. Gilhousen sale in 1973. The Newcomer to Clarke provenance was lost at that point but it had taken up residence in the W.G. Baldenhofer collection and the A.J. Ostheimer, 3rd collection in the intervening years. Miss Liberty was making the rounds impressively. This coin sold once more at the 1975 ANA Convention sale with the provenance of Baldenhofer and Ostheimer only. After that it slid into obscurity for 25 years until it recently surfaced without any provenance in the Heritage sale.

In the 1956 Clarke collection sale it was listed as uncirculated. And, again in the 1973 Gilhousen sale it was listed as "uncirculated, lustrous and as sharp as this variety comes". In the sale two years later, it had become "AU 50... lustrous, sharp as this variety comes". And now, with an EF 45 grade from PCGS, it's as if all the air has been let out of the balloon. If coins could get depressed, this one would need medication.

Having this coin in hand, I have been able to study the surfaces. The reverse is a die state between II and III. There is one crack on the reverse extending from T through ED, across the wing and into cloud two. It terminates within cloud two under the middle of the A in STATES. There is no crack at the first U in PLURIBUS yet. The coin has a hint of wear

evident on clouds two and four and some very fine abrasions seen under magnification on the highest portions of the wings. The eagles' breast feathers are not well struck with abrasions only on the highest points. A handful of hairlines or fine scratches can be seen under magnification scattered across the reverse central portion. The fields are beautifully clean, the mark above the eagles' head is as made, and the pervasive luster is subdued by the deep blue, rose and bright gold toning. Lettering and denticles are crisp, clean and well struck around the perimeter. By itself, the reverse would grade AU 53-55.

The obverse detail is not as sharp as the reverse. The obverse hair detail is fairly strong for the fourth use of this die. There is little evidence of wear on the top curls or hair behind the forehead. Drapery at the shoulder is a little softly struck with evidence of light wear. Lettering is again crisp and clean though not as sharp as the reverse due to lapping of the die and metal flow. Luster is subdued by the predominately rose toning. Unlike the reverse which has pristine fields, the obverse has scattered light contact marks over Miss Liberty and the right field. These are only seen under magnification and are not distracting. It is as if this beauty had been squirreled away in someone's jewelry box in her early life and suffered as she watched the other inhabitants come and go lightly leaving their marks in doing so. An appropriate net grade would be AU 50 although it has the appearance of a slightly higher grade. [This dollar would stand its ground with any AU 50 early dollar. The PCGS assigned grade just seems like cruel and unusual punishment].

One can only assume that this coin makes the case for keeping good records. The lack of these and/or some non-numismatically inclined heir contributed to the loss of this illustrious pedigree twice. After having been so long lost, this lovely lady deserves to renew the accolades. If we use the logic from Dave Perkins' article mentioned earlier, this Newcomer coin remains tied with the Emery-Nichols/Frontenac and Stack's specimens as the second finest 1798 B-30 silver dollar. Now, she's headed for a comfortable resting place among her contemporaries to be brought out on occasion to muse about the famous hands that have held her.



Early Silver Dollar Update

James Matthews

The coin market moves in cycles, at times coins trade at predictable levels seemingly for years on end. Such has been the case for bust dollars from 1991 until 1998. In the last two years, the supply of available bust dollars on the market has been trading furiously. Coins at auction bring staggering prices, once common die varieties are suddenly in feverish demand. Rarities, which had previously languished unappreciated, command multiples in price over common varieties.

What brings this about? In my opinion it is the increased information available about bust dollars combined with a good economy. The publication of the Bowers/Borckardt encyclopedia on silver dollars in 1993 laid the groundwork for the increased prices seen today in the bust dollar series. Additional reference books, such as the Jules Reiver early silver dollar book adds fuel to the information fire. Many fine articles published in *The John Reich Journal* help further.

Given the excellent information now available, the most important catalyst is a good economy. Bust dollars are very expensive; few collectors can afford to purchase more than a couple of coins per year. When the economy is strong, jobs are secure and collectors feel confident in making expensive purchases. Money flows from a variety of sources into coin collections. Currently, a lot of money is flowing into bust dollars.

At recent Long Beach coin shows what few bust dollars were available were offered at very high prices. Individual coins go from dealer to dealer, and the price seems to go up and up. As always in a strong market, problem coins flood into the system, the problems now curiously ignored by grading services and buyers, and find eager buyers for the first time in years. With prices escalating moment by moment, a feverish pitch is felt by dealers and collectors. Such conditions are temporary and prices will stabilize to predictable levels, perhaps higher or lower than current prices.

What is important to realize today, is that prices won't keep rising indefinitely. Stay with your strategy, don't purchase coins with problems, and stay within your budget. Don't chase common coins into the stratosphere. Buy coins of quality and rarity, and know that prices are very high at the moment. The most exciting part of today's feverish market pace is that high prices bring out some very exciting coins. So, zero in on the specific piece you want and go after it, but realize that nothing is going to be purchased on the cheap!



Early Silver Dollar Census

W. David Perkins, NLG

This is the third "Bust Dollar Census" to be published in the *John Reich Journal*.

The first early dollar census was published in the John Reich Journal in 1990 ("Condition Census - Pre-Turban Bust Dollars" by Russell J. Logan, *John Reich Journal*, October, 1990). The published results were based on 10 censuses submitted. In addition, the census included the early dollars from the H. Roland Willasch collection, which had been sold at public auction by Superior Galleries on May 27, 1990. The largest collection (#006) in the census had 112 different die marriages with an average grade of "41", or slightly better than EF-40 overall. There were 121 die marriages possible, which included the proof 1801-3 dollars and two "collectable" varieties of 1804.

The second dollar census was published four years later. ("Bust Dollar Census and Update" by Russell J. Logan, *John Reich Journal*, October, 1994). This second census was based on 12 censuses submitted. The largest collection submitted (again) contained 112 different die marriages (#006). New rarity ratings were assigned for many of the die marriages.

As many of our members well know, the early dollars have shown a significant increase in popularity over the six years since the last census. There are many more collectors and the early dollars are much more difficult to acquire. This census confirms this trend - this time around there were 23 surveys submitted! "Number 006" managed to add two Rarity-8 die marriages in the last six years, giving give him a total of 114 different die marriages. The second most complete collection in the census has 105 different die marriages and an impressive average grade of "49."

Understanding the census:

This census follows the format of past JRCS censuses. Die marriages are listed by date, Bolender number (**B#**), Bowers-Borckardt number (**BB#**) and Rarity Rating (**R#**) and are listed in Bolender number sequence. Collections are listed by member number, starting with the collection with the most number of different die marriages. Due to publishing considerations, only the top 15 collections (by number of different die marriages) are published. **All 23 collections are included in the census totals.** The highest grade submitted from all 23 surveys appears in the last column under **"MAX."**

Duplicates submitted are also included in overall results for each die marriage. If a collection contained more than one of a particular die marriage, the highest grade specimen is the (only) one listed in the census for that collection. And this specimen is the (only) one used to calculate the "average grade" for that collection (the duplicate or duplicate(s) are ignored for this calculation). **However, all specimens submitted, including all duplicates are included in the average grade for each particular die variety.**

As an example, let's look at the relatively common (available) 1796 B-4, BB-61 silver dollar. A total of 18 specimens were submitted to the census. Ten of the first 15 collections had *at least one* specimen of this die marriage. The next 8 collections contained only 1 specimen. And there were 7 duplicate specimens included in the census. The average grade of all 18 specimens is "32," or slightly over VF-30. [If you averaged the 10 specimens from the first 15 collections only, you would get an average grade of "36.8."] The top grade recorded for this die marriage is a "60" specimen in the collection of member #006.

Let's look at one more example, the 1802 B-6, BB-241 dollar. We see the highest-grade specimen (MAX) is listed as a "61." Yet the number "61" does not appear in any of the first 15 surveys. This is because it is in the collection one of the other 8 surveys included, but not listed individually.

Analysis and Comments:

Approximately 900 early silver dollars in total are included in this census. The top 15 censuses include over 800 specimens. Two censuses have over 100 different die marriages in total.

For 1795, *JRCS* collections include one of the two known (to me) 1795 B-16 die marriages, the only known B-18, B-20 and B-21. There are two specimens of 1795 B-20. No collection (in this census) includes the 1795 B-19 marriage (see *JRJ*, Volume 11 / Issue 2, January 1996 for more details on these R-8 die marriages).

All three of the known (to me) 1796 B-6 specimens are in the hands of JRCS members!

The 1798 B-32, BB-91, a R-7 (4-12 known) die marriage is represented by 11 specimens. This extremely rare, and desirable, die marriage appears to be "on it's way to being R-6+." On the other hand, it is possible all known specimens are in the hands of JRCS early dollar specialists. The majority of the R-8 die marriages are in *JRCS* collector's hands - why not the R-7s? What do you think? Is anyone aware of any other specimens of this die marriage (not included in this census)?

There are 22 die marriages for 1799 (B#s 1-23, no B-20). As you can see by the top specimen (MAX) it is possible to build an AU and better set of 1799s by die marriage! And the same is possible for 1800, assuming you can find an 1800 B-4 in better than EF-45 (tops in our census). [It is possible to do this for 1800 as there are over half a dozen B-4s listed in the Bowers book in AU, none of which appear to be in the hands of *JRCS* members.]

The 1801 B-1, BB-211 and the 1802, B-5, BB-242 tie for most specimens submitted to the census for a die marriage with 17 each.

No proof 1801-3 or 1804 dollars were submitted for this survey.



JRCS Early Dollar Survey

September, 2000

	B#	BB#	R#	006	310	883	025	018	013	951	819	165	716	429	897	222	973	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1794	1	1	4	20	40	20		12			40								5	26	40
1795	1	21	2	15	40	35		15	50	4	50		8			12			10	24	50
	2	20	3	20	40	25	12								20		30		9	24	45
	3	11	5	25	30	40			30		60	35							9	32	60
	4	14	3	50	45	20			30			58	8		30				9	37	58
	5	27	1	30	55	45	30	25		20		30	20	12	35	30	30		16	30	55
	6	25	3	40	45								15		20				6	25	45
	7	18	3	25	45	35	25				58		30				20		8	34	58
	8	15	7	10					25										2	18	25
	9	13	4	40	45	45	30	45			58								6	44	58
	10	22	7	40	35				30			25							5	30	40
	11	12	7	40	45			40	30						40				5	39	45
	12	26	6	30	40	30	40	15	10										7	28	40
	13	24	4	30	45			40	35										4	38	45
	14	51	2	45	40	35	45	50		35	58		12	40	50	50			12	39	58
	15	52	2	40	45	35	45	55		20	55		30		40		35		13	39	55
	16	23	8	15															1	15	15
	18	17	8		55														1	55	55
	19	19	8																0		
	20	16	8	15							20								2	18	20
	21	28	8								12								1	12	12
	22	29	8	12															1	12	12
1796	1	66	4	35	45	50	35		53		58								6	46	58
	2	63	4	40	53		15		45				20						5	35	53
	3	62	8																0		
	4	61	3	60	40	30	45	40		30	58		20	25		20			18	32	60
	5	65	4	45	50	40	45	45	45	20	53				40				12	43	62
	6	64	8	20	35						12								3	22	35
1797	1	73	3	50	63	45	35	40	58	35	58		25	30	20		35		22	37	63
	2	72	4	40	50	40	40	40	20	30	53			15	20				14	35	53
	3	71	2	45	58	45	50	45	45	35			20			40			18	39	58
1798	1	82	3	45	60	40	40	40		15	58			12	45				11	40	60
	2	81	3	35	63	40	35	50	35	20	62	20	20	15					12	35	63
	3	94	5	50	45		30	40				35							5	40	50
	4	92	4	50	35	35		40											5	39	50
	5	93	6	40	53	25		20	40		40	50		55					8	40	55
	6	96	3	40	53	45	40	50		40							30		9	40	53
	7	95	5	50	40			15		12	58								5	35	58

	B#	BB#	R#	006	310	883	025	018	013	951	819	165	716	429	897	222	973	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1798	8	125	2	45	45	20		45	55			55				25	35		13	37	55
	9	121	5	50	55	40	30	40	50		55	40	20						9	42	55
	10	109	5	40	40		50		50	15		45							6	40	50
	11	111	3	50	53	30	25	35	40	20	53	45							15	38	53
	12	120	4	50	45	45		12	40		63	55							7	40	55
	13	108	3	45		45	40	55		35	58	45							8	45	63
	14	122	3	40	35	55	20	50		25		45		30					12	38	58
	15	112	3	35	45	55	20		40	30		50	12		45				11	36	55
	16	110	6	50	55			20	40			30							8	36	55
	17	101	5	50	53		35	20	45		45	40		40	30				11	40	53
	18	103	7	30							8								2	19	30
	19	106	5	40	50	40	40	40	45			58			30			40	11	41	58
	20	102	5	50	40		40		50	45	53	45							10	40	53
	21	107	5	55	55	50	35	50				45							6	48	55
	22	104	3	45		40			58			45							6	45	58
	23	105	3	35	55	35	35			40			30			25			8	39	55
	24	124	2	50	45	40		20		35		55							9	39	55
	25	123	4	45	45	40	30			12		50		45					12	34	50
	26	114	5	50	50	53		35	50		62		8						8	45	62
	27	113	2	40	45	53		40									45		7	41	53
	28	118	3	55	55	35		50		20		45			45			45	15	38	55
	29	119	3	40	35	20	35	8	40									35	8	30	40
	30	116	5	45	58	25	25	50	45			58			45				11	37	58
	31	115	5	50	58	35		57	45			40	15						9	41	58
	32	91	7	40	25	20		40	62	15		55			40				11	31	62
	33	117	7	50	50				45										3	48	50
	1	142	4	30		50	35			20		50					45		8	34	50
1799	2	143	4	60	55	55	50			12						15			7	37	60
	3	141	3	50	60	35	53	50	40	30	58		25	30	55			45	14	44	60
	4	153	4	50	58	45	15			12				20	50			35	13	33	58
	5	157	2	40	53	20	20	50		40				40			40	30	11	36	53
	6	162	4	40		40	30		40	30			20						10	30	40
	7	156	4	40	58	50	12		55	12		45			50				9	37	58
	8	165	3	40	62	50		50		20				40	50				10	41	62
	9	166	1	45	55		35	35	15	12	55						45		11	32	55
	10	163	2	55	61	50	25			30	53	58						30	11	38	61
	11	161	3	40	45	45	25	35					40						11	35	45
	12	160	3	50	62	55	20	50	30							25			9	41	62
	13	151	5	45	45	30		50	40					25					9	35	55
	14	167	3	35	58	55	35	53	50	30									9	47	58
	15	152	3	30	40	53	25			12		50							8	32	53
	16	158	2	45	65	55	20	53		45				45					13	39	65
	17	164	2	45	35	50	35	53		15								30	12	5	53
	18	154	5	30	50	55	12	45	55	35	62		15	45	40				14	39	62
	19	155	5	45	45	25	35	50	35	15				30		30		40	14	34	50

	B#	BB#	R#	006	310	883	025	018	013	951	819	165	716	429	897	222	973	101	PCS	AVG	MAX
1799	21	169	3	45	50	15	20	45		12			25						14	33	55
	22	168	5		35	35	30		45		50	50		45	40	25			15	33	50
	23	159	4	50	61	50	20	45	45	55	60	50		40		25			15	42	61
1800	1	181	5	50	53		45	40	50		55	50		35	35				10	41	55
	2	182	6	50	58	25	12		40		30			30					8	33	58
	3	183	5	55	45		20		50					30					5	40	55
	4	186	4	40	45		35		45										5	40	45
	5	189	5	40	45	25			50					35				20	8	33	50
	8	188	4	30	55	50	30	50	45						45				8	44	55
	10	190	3	30	53	50	15									20			6	33	53
	11	191	5	40			25	20	50										5	30	50
	12	184	3	60	40	50		50		50			15						8	40	60
	13/1	193	4	45	55	50	12	45				45							13	36	55
	14	194	3	45	55	53	30		60	35			30	15			40		11	42	60
	15	195	4	40	50	25	15	50		15			10						7	29	50
	16	187	2	50	53	60	50	53	15			55							8	48	60
	17	196	1	40	58		20	55						45	35	3	45	30	12	34	58
	19	192	2	25	55	50	20	50		45				25	50	20			11	35	55
	20	185	7	50	53				40						30				4	43	53
1801	1	211	3	40	50	50	20	50	30	35	62		20			25			17	34	62
	2	212	3	35	58		20	55			58		20	45	50			8	11	36	58
	3	213	3	40	50	40	25	50		30									8	34	50
	4	214	4	40	55	35	30			30		45	25						12	33	55
	5	301	7																		
1802	1	231	4	60	55	40	30			12			8		45			40	8	36	60
	2	233	4	30	50	40	20		45	20			20	15			40		9	31	50
	3	234	3	50	55	35	30	55		30		50	20		40				11	36	55
	4	232	4	40	58	20	40			12			20						7	35	58
	5	242	5	50	55	45	40		45	30			30	45	30				17	38	58
	6	241	1	45	58		50	50		45				35		20	40		13	41	61
	8	302	7																		
	9	235	6	45	45		30	40	35		45		15	20					9	35	45
1803	1	251	4	65	53		30		50	25									8	44	65
	3	253	6	40	55		40		45	25				30	40				7	39	55
	4	256	3	30	58	45	20			20			20	20					10	31	58
	5	254	3	35	12		35		20	35			15						6	25	35
	6	255	2	40	50	55	35	40		40			8		45			35	13	40	58
	7	303	7																0		

	006	310	883	025	018	013	951	819	165	716	429	897	222	973	101	
Die Marriages	114	105	83	81	69	61	60	38	38	37	35	34	17	15	14	**121 Known**
Average Grade	41	49	40	31	41	42	26	50	46	19	32	39	24	37	33	

At Long Last, a 1795 Overton-132, Beistle 10-C Turns Up

James Matthews

Numismatists for the last 150 years have accumulated coins and medals in America. Scholarly works began to appear in the late 1850s on die varieties of United States large cents. Other denominations were studied, and two students of the time, J. Colvin Randall and Capt. John W. Haseltine examined available collections of the day and published a die variety reference on United States quarters, half dollars and silver dollars, under Capt. Haseltine's name (Randall apparently never forgave Haseltine for claiming the work as his alone). The Haseltine work was the standard reference for these silver varieties for about 5 decades. In time, collectors began to find new varieties, and a new wave of updated variety books was published in the 1920s and later. M. L. Beistle published an excellent work on half dollar varieties in 1929, based on his own collection, the collection of David Proskey and Mr. E. H. R. Green. The Beistle book stood as the standard reference until the 1960s, when Al Overton published his own study of early half dollar die varieties, along with subsequent revisions and updates. The Beistle book proved to be very accurate, but lacked the plates of later varieties desired by collectors.

One die pairing of 1795 half dollars proved to be very troubling. Beistle noted on page 10 of his book under variety 1795 10 C that... "This die variety is very similar to Nos. 1, 2 and 6. The last star point is close to the end of the bust, and the first star and curl are in the same position as on No. 2. This variety can readily become confused with No. 6, but there is one very decided difference. On No. 6, E and R in LIBERTY are wide spaced, and on this variety they are close spaced, and almost touch at the base." Beistle goes on to say "Exceedingly rare; the only one I have seen and believe it to be unique." Beistle printed plates of the 1794 and 1795 half dollars, as well as other selected varieties. Included in these plates is a photograph of his 10 C variety, the coin he thought to be unique. Beistle's 1795 variety 10 C is important because his obverse 10 was not paired with any other known reverses, while reverse C was used in 1795 to produce Beistle's 1 C variety (Overton-101) which is extremely rare, with only 5 specimens known of the B 1-C or O-101 variety. When Overton published his variety reference on half dollars, he initially dropped Beistle 10 C as he could not locate a specimen, and none of the half dollar collectors he knew had ever seen one. Later, in his second 1970 edition, Overton included 1795 Beistle 10 C as Overton-132, and used the same photograph to represent the variety that Beistle had used. In 1990, the Third Edition of **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties, 1794 - 1836** was published by Don Parsley, updating the Overton reference with a condition census and additional varieties discovered since 1970. Despite years and years of dozens of collectors actively attributing bust half dollars, no one had found the original Beistle 10 C coin, nor had anyone turned up another example. Doubts had begun to form about the Beistle 10 C. Parsley stated after the

variety description of 1795 Overton-132 "If in fact, this marriage exists, this piece may be unique. Any information the reader may have would be welcome." Another decade passed, thousands and thousands of bust half dollars were attributed, purchased and sold. Still no example of the 1795 Beistle 10 C (O-132) was located, despite the best efforts of the Bust Half Nut variety collectors club.

The decades of speculation were finally laid to rest in July of 2000, Southern California coin dealer Manny Acosta purchased a 1795 half dollar from a customer in his store. Acosta called half dollar specialist Gary Beedon and asked him to help him attribute his new purchase. Beedon and Acosta soon discovered that the new 1795 half dollar was an example of Beistle 10 C, or Overton 132. To say the discovery was exciting is a serious understatement. Not only did this coin confirm that O-132 did exist, but the example found was different from the coin pictured in Beistle's book. To locate a variety which has been unconfirmed for over 70 years is certainly the find of a lifetime. For bust half dollar collectors, this is one of the most important finds in decades.

As to the coin itself, it is generally untoned and silvery-white in color. The obverse has typical marks expected for the grade, but the rims and surfaces show no significant defects or circulation problems. On the reverse, the unique berry combination 10 on the left branch and 9 on the right quickly identify this as Reverse A (Overton) or C (Beistle). Note that there are four berries on the lower right branch under the wing, both outside berries are small and partially covered by the branch. Well struck by the dies, this coin is quite pleasing for its moderate grade. The obverse die failed quickly, with a strong die break through RTY of LIBERTY. So far as is known, only two coins survived, one of which hasn't been published since 1929, and this example. To say this is a foremost opportunity would be an understatement. This is the opportunity to purchase this variety. Once sold, it may not be offered again for decades unless the buyer from this sale decides to part with it. No hint of a





third example has been heard. After reviewing the Beistle reference, the cataloger (JMM) noticed a small but very important clue pertaining to the Beistle 10 C coin. Beistle noted in his Foreword that his collection was formed with the help of David Proskey and Mr. E. H. R. Green. Beistle notes that through Proskey, Beistle was able to "possess and register many of my rarest varieties, not a few of which came from his private collection." It thus appears that Proskey sold Beistle coins for his collection, including pieces from Proskey's own private collection. Although Beistle did not auction his personal collection, some of the coins used in his plates have turned up in half dollar collections, and it is likely that Beistle's coins were sold sometime after his book was published in 1929 although the disposition of his collection was not published or auctioned.

Reading on Beistle continues in his Foreword as follows:
"This work would not have been brought up to its present completeness had it not been for my friend Mr. E. H. R. Green of South Dartmouth, Mass., who is an ardent collector as well as an advanced student of numismatics. I am very much indebted to Mr. Green for loaning me his entire collection of Half Dollars for checking die varieties, which enabled me to make this work more complete than otherwise. At the same time, it gave me an opportunity when making my plates, to photograph some of his finest and rarest specimens." My guess is that Beistle did not own the example of 10C, but that it resided in the Green collection. Further evidence supports this in the fact that the plate for 1795 obverse 10 is dropped in seemingly as an afterthought, on page XXV after the 1796-97 half dollars. Note that all other half dollars plated are in date, variety and letter order. Obverse 1795 10 is the one exception to proper sequential ordering. Let me emphasize what Beistle says in the paragraph about Col. Green. Beistle states that his book was "brought up to its present completeness" by coins Green "loaned" him. Further, Beistle thanks Green for allowing him to "photograph some of his finest and rarest specimens." As the Beistle collection was apparently sold or broken up, yet the 1795 10-C has not turned up, there is certainly a better than average chance that the coin used in his book resides in the Col. Green collection. Based on the location of the 1795 Beistle 10 obverse in the plates, it appears that it turned up very late in the publication process, and barely made it into the Beistle book. The Col. Green collection was broken up in the 1940s, with some of the more important coins sold directly to a famous mid west collector, where they remain to this day. With no evidence to the contrary, it is likely that the long missing 1795 Beistle 10-C, Overton-132 coin is held in that famous collection today. This would explain why the coin hasn't turned up in over 70 years. Now at last, a second specimen has turned up, the specimen offered here. Rumors of the demise of Beistle's 1795 10-C were exaggerated, and at last all collectors will have a chance to finally purchase this coin for their variety collections. When the hammer falls, there will be one very happy collector who can finally knock this coin off their want list, after decades of uncertainty and searching, the existence of Beistle 10 C is finally solved.

Note: For a free catalog please call Jim Matthews at 310-551-2646 or write to Ira and Larry Goldberg, 350 South Beverly Drive, Suite 350, Beverly Hills, CA 90212



Stop The Press: 1827 O-148

Russell J. Logan

Most R-7 and R-8 Bust half die marriages look like their generic counterparts with the exception of the 1817/14; the other possible exception is 1827 O-148. This die marriage has an exceptional story, many chapters of which can be read from the coins themselves. This marriage is the combination of 1827 Obverse 21 and Reverse AG. Although Al Overton never saw an example (the first coin was discovered in Boston about the time of his death) he would have been fascinated by the saga of events which took place during the brief time of its striking.

Many rare die marriages were created because of die failure. The obverse die cracks on the 1817 O-102 and 1825 O-118 are good examples of high rarity caused by die failure. Another common cause of rarity is a setup change in the screw press. This happens when the press is retooled for another denomination as prescribed by the production schedules. But this was an infrequent occurrence during the 1810's, 20's, and 30's for half dollars because one of the screw presses was dedicated to coining half dollars as stated in Director Patterson's letter dated Nov. 8, 1836 to Levi Woodbury, Secretary of the Treasury. Besides die failure and set up change, there may be a third reason for high rarity: equipment failure.

Only a few aficionados in the Bust Half Nut Club have been able to find an O-148 for their collection. In fact, two prominent Bust Half collectors discovered 33% of the total known population. Needless to say after 28 years, the 148 is still a rare coin and missing from most collections. The following is a list of known examples of this die marriage:

Known Examples

1. AU-55: Ex Elton Dosier; purchased at the Southern California Coin Club Show 1976. Traded to Sheridan Downey along with other bust halves on June 28, 1988 for an 1817/14. Photographed in the 1981 BHNC Supplement. Supplements with two binding staples show the photograph as 1829 O-149, whereas supplements with four staples properly show it as O-148. Elton graded this coin AU-50, all subsequent references are AU-55. It is without question the finest O-148. Presently in a New York collection. See Figure 1.



Figure 1 The finest known 1827 Overton 148, discovered by Elton Dosier four years after the die marriage was discovered. It grades AU-55.

2. EF-45: Ex Chuck Erb; purchased at the Shaker Heights (Ohio) Coin club show in October 1986. This coin is triple struck; the first strike being an obverse brockage, with all stars and date visible on reverse in addition to incused dentils from 5 o'clock to 9 o'clock; the second strike being normal with the obverse but slightly misaligned from the first strike, and the third strike 1mm offset from the second strike. Chuck graded this coin AU-50 but neglected to consider a reverse scratch from the 0 in 50 C. to the bottom of the first pale of the fifth gule. Presently in an Ohio collection. See Figure 2.



Figure 2 The second finest O-148 grades EF-45 and is triple struck. This coin, like three other O-148's was first struck as an obverse brockage. Dies are slightly misaligned.

3. EF-40: Ex Richard Pugh; purchased at the Milwaukee '89 ANA. Photographed and sold by Superior Galleries in Richards' estate auction on May 31, 1992 as lot 1348. Described by Superior as EF-40 with "a minor rim mark at the point of the third star". Photographed in third edition of Overton. Coin purchased by Sheridan Downey as agent for Gerald Schertz. Sold by Downey in his Invitational Mail Bid Auction of May 9, 1994 as lot 6 to Donald Parsley; presently in a Virginia collection.

4. EF-40: The discovery coin. Discovered by Dan Thornhill circa 1972. Dan was a new member of BHNC and when he proclaimed his discovery to his peers, disbelief fell on the fraternity. Floyd Farley broke the silence when he asked to see the coin in question. That was the last time Dan ever saw his coin. I had dinner with Thorny in Boston in the fall of 1977, and he said that Floyd's return package had more R5's and R6's than he had ever seen in one grouping, and that he had no choice other than to accept Floyd's offer. Floyd sold this example to Charlton E. Meyer, Jr. in 1986.

5. VF-30: Discovered by Chuck Erb in Western Pennsylvania in the spring of 2000. Downey Mail Bid Sale #26:167.

6. VF-30: Purchased from Mike Aaron in 1983 by Richard Pugh. Photographed in the 1987 BHNC Supplement. Photographed and sold by Superior Galleries in Richards' estate auction on May 31, 1992 as lot 1347. Described by Superior as VF-30 as cleaned with heavy hairlines on both sides. Coin purchased by Sheridan Downey as agent for Robbie Brown. Featured in Downey's Mail Bid Sale #13, January 1995 as lot 64. Presently in an Illinois collection.

7. VF-30: Purchased and owned by Virginia collector in 1984.

8. VF-20: Discovered in a Southern California coin shop in October 1996. This coin is double struck; the first strike being an obverse brockage with the incused 27 of the date beneath ED of UNITED from the second but normal strike. Photographed and sold by Downey in his Mail Bid Auction #19 in January 1997 as lot #208. Presently in a Southern California collection.

9. VF-20: Brokered by Jonathan Kern and Sheridan Downey circa 1995 to advanced Virginia collector.

10. VF-20: Discovered in 1997 and consigned to Downey's Mail Bid Auction # 20 lot 138 in August 1997. This coin is also double struck; the first strike being an obverse brockage with the incused stars in the dentils below 50 C. from the second but normal strike. The coin has even original grey toning and is photographed on that auction catalog cover.

11. VG-10: Discovered and owned by a Tennessee collector in 1990.

12. VG-10: Discovered by Brian Greer in an Indiana coin shop in January 2000, and later brokered by Sheridan Downey. This coin is also double struck; the first strike being an obverse brockage off center by 20% @ 10:00 o'clock, with just two incused stars faintly visible on reverse; the second strike being slightly off center at 6 o'clock. The coin is presently in a Florida collection.

Obverse Brockage

After several low grade 148's surfaced in the mid 1990's, it became obvious to me that there was a reason for their extreme rarity as two of the newly discovery coins were double struck! And not just struck twice, *but first struck as an obverse brockage*! This happens when a coin sticks to the reverse working die and the screw press continues to cycle new planchets into the press. The resulting coin has a normal obverse but its reverse has an incused image of the obverse because it was struck by the coin that was stuck to the reverse die. The brockages were obviously discovered by the operator because they were then fed into the press a second time to make them appear like normal coins. In at least one instance they cycled the screw press twice to eradicate the brockage strike.

But the existence of a brockage strike on a third of the known examples does not prove that the equipment failure occurred with the striking of the O-148 die marriage. Possibly the working dies used to create the brockage pieces were removed from the press during the repair, so that when the press was fixed, another set of dies could have been employed. On the other hand, perhaps one can determine exactly which die was used for the brockage strike. Normally, on a half dollar, only the periphery elements of the first strike remain on the coin after the second strike, and degenerate rapidly in grades EF and below.



Figure 3 The dentils from each of the three strikes above the cap are clearly stacked one on top of another.

Fortunately, the triple struck EF-45 example was available for study. See Figure 3. Would it be possible to identify the obverse die from the brockage strike? But first it was necessary to orient the obverse brockage with the reverse. The incused base of the "7" is visible in the space between the F in OF and the A in AMERICA. Likewise stars 1 through 7 can be identified between 50 C. and the second S in STATES. See Figure 4. These observations aligned the brockage strike with the reverse. The next step was to identify some diagnostic feature of the incused strike in order to attribute it to a specific working die. Because there were incused dentils visible between stars 1 and 7, it seemed logical to identify the star points relative to the dentils as Overton did with stars



Figure 4 The incused stars from the brockage strike are best seen through UNITED.

	Obv. 21	Brockage O-148
Star 1	LH	–
Star 2	B	LE
Star 3	UH	–
Star 4	B	B
Star 5	UE	UE
Star 6	UH	–
Star 7	UE	UE

Table 1
In Star positions 1, 3 and 6, either the incused star point or the dentil was either missing or too weak to determine.

Because the star-to-dentil relationship match for the four readable positions, I think we can conclude that the first strike of the triple struck O-148 was done by Obverse die 21, and probably with Reverse die AG. According to Leaman and Gunnett, the first use of Obverse 21 was striking 148's; consequently, any earlier use would indicate an unpublished die marriage. This would confirm that the striking of O-148 was doomed from the beginning with screw press problems. Problems so big that the decision was made to stop the coinage and fix the press.



The 1837 Quarter Eagle

John W. McCloskey

The 1837 quarter eagle has long been recognized as one of the scarce dates in the Classic Head series with a reported mintage of only 45,080 pieces. Very little information has been published on die varieties of this date so I have studied the die pairs used to strike this issue. For many years all of the coins of this date that I had seen in major auctions and all of the pieces available at major shows were examples of the same variety.

The obverse of this variety had the date high in the field with the 7 in the date very close to the curl above. The 7 appears to be about four time closer to the curl above than to the dentils below. The 13th star is close to the dentils and the outer point extends out close to the center of a dentil. Some examples of this variety have a die crack running from the rim through the 9th star, down through the curls to the neck and out into the field to the top of the 8 in the date. A final crack can be seen on some pieces from the base of the 1 to the center of a dentil below.

The reverse of this variety has three lines in each of the vertical stripes in the reverse shield, a characteristic seen on all of the reverses used in the Classic quarter eagle series from 1834 to 1836. This particular reverse has the lowest arrowhead solidly joined to the center of the right diagonal of the second A in AMERICA. The lowest tip of the feathered shaft nearly touches the 2 in the denomination and it is far from the 1 in the fraction. The right edge of the base of the 2 in the fraction is centered over a dentil and there is a small undersized dentil below the base of the 2 in the fraction. This die pair has been identified as Variety 1.

About ten years ago I had the opportunity to examine the Classic Head quarter eagles at the Smithsonian Institution and I was able to examine the 1837 Proof quarter eagle in the Smithsonian collection. I would grade this piece as Proof-63 and I was able to determine that this coin had a different obverse and reverse from the previously described Variety 1.
The obverse of the 1837 proof coin has the 7 nearly centered in the field between the curl above and the dentils below. The 7 in the date is repunched. The 13th star is close to the dentils and the outer point extends out toward the gap between two dentils. The 8th star is boldly recut and the 9th and 10th stars show slight recutting on some star points. There is a die crack that runs from the rim through the 8th star and extends down into the curls through the TY in LIBERTY, and then down through the curls and neck and out into the field to the top of the 7 in the date.

The 1837 proof coin was struck from an entirely new reverse die with an improved reverse design. The reverse shield now has two lines in each vertical stripe. This is the first reverse in the Classic quarter eagle series with the new two line stripes. This modification was presumably made in the reverse dies by mint officials because the three line stripes often

broke down with die use so that the shield lines appeared to be welded together in late die states. The new shield lines were stronger and held up better to the striking process. This reverse also had the lowest tip of the feathered shaft centered over the 2 in the denomination with the right edge of the 2 in the fraction over the gap between two dentils. The lowest arrowhead is clearly separated from the base of the second A in AMERICA. This is the same reverse that was used to strike all known 1838 quarter eagles.

To my knowledge there are only two known 1837 proof quarter eagles, both from this die pair. One of these coins is permanently impounded in the Smithsonian Institution. The other coin was sold in 1982 at auction in the Eliasberg collection where it was purchased by Harry Bass. This coin was sold again at auction by Bowers and Merena Galleries as part of the Harry W.Bass Jr. Collection in May 2000. There are no known business strike specimens struck from this die pair.





By the spring of 1996 I had been collecting Classic Head quarter eagles for about ten years and already owned examples of most of the die varieties in the series. But I was still studying all of the coins that I encountered at auction and at major shows hoping to identify new varieties in the series. I had the die characteristics of the one common variety of the 1837 quarter eagle clearly defined so that I could quickly identify this variety when I encountered it. I knew that a coin with the 7 very close to the curl with a die crack through the 9th star would indicate the obverse of Variety 1. The reverse could be quickly identified by observing that the lowest arrowhead was joined to the second A in AMERICA.

I went to a show in April 1996 and studied the dies of all of the Classic quarter eagles that I encountered. At one table I asked to see an 1837 coin in a nice XF grade. I quickly identified the obverse of this coin by the high 7 in the date and the die crack through the 9th star. I turned the coin over and was completely surprised to see that the lowest arrowhead was not joined to the second A in AMERICA. There was no question that this was a new reverse because the lowest arrowhead was clearly separated from the A. I quickly purchased the coin and then retired to a room to more carefully study the coin. I returned home excited that I

had identified a new die combination for a date whose business strikes were previously thought to have been produced from only one die pair.

The obverse of my new discovery was struck from the same die as the previously described Variety 1. The 7 is very high in the field and the die crack through the 9th star is clearly visible. In fact the die crack from the 9th star through the curls to the date is stronger than that seen on Variety 1 coins. This feature makes the new coin a later use for the obverse die of Variety 1. The reverse die has three lines in each of the vertical stripes and is therefore recognized as a left over die from the style of 1836. The lowest tip of the feathered shaft is centered between the 2 in the denomination and the 1 in the fraction. The right edge of the base of the 2 in the fraction is over the gap between two dentils and the lowest arrowhead is clearly separated from the base of the second A in AMERICA. I have identified this die pair as Variety 2.



The use of this reverse in 1837 was not a real surprise because this same reverse was used in other years in the series. This reverse was used with two obverse dies in 1836 to create two of the more common varieties for that year. But it is surprising that this reverse was also used to strike all known examples of the 1839 quarter eagle. I have always wondered why a reverse with three lines in each vertical stripe was used for the 1839 quarter eagle two years after the reverses with the two line stripes were introduced into the series. But the use of this die in 1839 has always implied that the reverse was available for use in earlier years and therefore a possible reverse for the 1837 quarter eagle.

Since the discovery of Variety 2 for the 1837 quarter eagle, I have made many attempts to find additional examples of this variety to no avail. I went back and studied all of the pictures of 1837 quarter eagles that I could find in auction catalogues, but I was never able to find a second example of this variety. I have continued to study 1837 quarter eagles at shows but again no new examples have been identified. I would expect that other examples of this variety do exist, but the variety would have to be quite rare and a prize for any collector who would have the good fortune to identify one.

Photos for this article courtesy of Tom Mulvaney.

Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets: The Lapping Process

Edgar E. Souders, NLG

Lapping is a machinist term for grinding and polishing a metal surface. In numismatics it refers to the grinding and polishing of the face of a die. This lapping process was used by our early Mint to correct or repair this face or field —- as the field is the highest point on a die. With that said, this all sounds simple enough, but to many, this is a confusing and misunderstood process that somehow does not make sense when viewing a Capped Bust Half-dollar that has been lapped or very heavily lapped.

With this in mind I would like to take you back through the lapping process so that that this will no longer be confusing. The best way to do this is thru analogy so I will review the analogy that I similarly used in my book, **Bust Half Fever**;

Imagine a clump of modeling clay sitting on a table. Its shape is that of a cylinder much like a beverage can sitting on end. For our example the top of the can (clay) is going to be entirely flat. This represents the "field" or "face" of a working die.

Now stand above it , look down, and push your thumb down into this flat clay "field." This represents the incuse portrait of Liberty on the working die. Further, take a pencil and push the eraser into the clay all the way around the periphery of the clay can. This represents our "stars" and "date" on the working die.

The portrait of Liberty (thumb depression) and stars and date (eraser depressions) are recessed. The remaining high flat area is the field or face of the die.

Let the clay "working die" harden. With our hardened working die complete we install it into our imaginary screwpress and strike off a few hundred half-dollars. Then accidentally, our upper and lower working dies come together without an intervening planchet between them. The result is a heavy reverse design clashed into the face of our obverse working die. The obverse did not clash into the reverse field because the reverse die was harder steel, therefore only the stronger reverse indented our obverse. The clash only affects the flat field area (the stars, date and portrait are recessed into the die) and we decide to remove it from the die cup on the screwpress. We next place it on our work table for lapping in an attempt to correct the now damaged die.

In continuing with our analogy of the clay working die we will now take sandpaper and remove this "ugly" accident from the die face. We level the die and began polishing the field area with the sandpaper wrapped around a block of wood. This slowly begins to remove

"metal" thereby removing the outline indentations caused by the clash. Once the defects are removed from the face we then polish the flat area and once again are ready to strike more half dollars.

This is the basic principle of the lapping process and it should be noted that the procedure was used very, very often in the die striking/care process. In fact, it is not uncommon for a die to be lapped several times during its die-life span. How do we know? Because there are "tells" left on the coins themselves which gives us the true story. Let us now return to our clay working dies for further clues.

After successfully removing the clashed defects by sanding (lapping) and polishing a microscopic inspection will show that something else occurred. If you sanded the face of the die, but did not keep the sandpaper level then you reduced the depth of the stars – more on one side than the other side. If the stars were punched deeply into the working die, you have "shallowed out" one side more than the other with the result being that the shallower stars can actually appear sharper on the struck halves. The reason for this is because it does not take as much metal to fill the cavity.

Consider this for a moment. This is how stars (and lettering) can become sharper after a die has been lapped. When stars and lettering on a half become "stretched" towards the edges this tells us that the field of the working die is becoming worn from the constant pounding of the dies under pressure and heat. The striking process actually starts to remove metal from the field area of the working die at its outermost edges as the planchet expands and the metal pushes outward from the center of the planchet towards the edges. This effect is further compounded due to the lack of an expansion restraining collar. As you will recall, Capped Bust half-dollars were struck in an open collar to avoid squashing the edge lettering. There was nothing much there to "push" the metal back and up into the incuse devices in the dies. So this common occurance, so prevelant on many halves, could often be "fixed" by lapping the die and removing part of that worn defective groves in the metal near the stars and lettering. In effect the lapping process brought the die back to its earlier original condition. This being the case you would think that it would be impossible to tell when a half was struck from an early die state or a refinished later die state. But when you sanded the face down you did something else...

Remember when I said that you shallowed out the stars on one side more than the other? Well you also minutely shallowed out the portrait (thumb impression). Since the real working die's portrait design is at distinct graduated levels, particular details begin to fade out and become smaller, or disappear completely on the struck halves.

Lapped Obverse Results

a. When the stars show lapping they are minutely reduced in size. If star recutting was present on an earlier state then the lapped state has generally removed these recutting traces.

b. Dentilation shallows out and can begin to disappear on heavily lapped pieces. This is often compounded due to heavily worn dies where the dentilation has been worn away.





c. The portrait begins to show the shallowing out process in very specific areas. The curl, at the forehead of Liberty, begins to thin and move away from the headband. Also, note in the photograph that the upper arrow, at the front of Liberty's Cap, points to an opening between cap and headband. This is what is referred to as a "detached" cap.

d. Liberty's mouth begins to "open".

e. The end of Liberty's bust begins to merge with the field.

f. In extreme lapping cases the back of the Liberty Cap becomes "detached" and blends in with the field area.

The lapped reverse working die's often show even more dramatic changes on the struck halves. And also some of the most interesting collected pieces in our collections. Before we get into individual pieces let us first review the reverse locations.

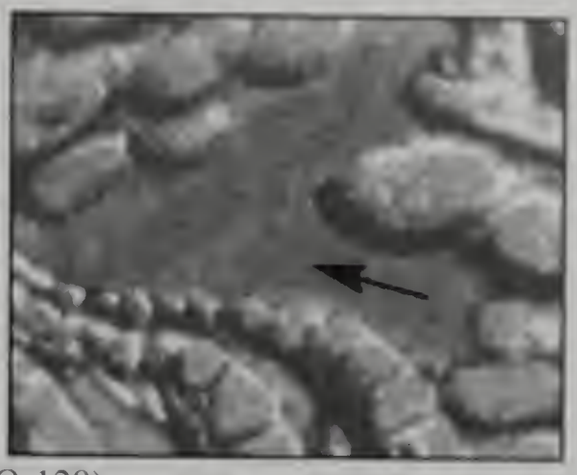
Lapped Reverse Results

a. The lettering can become minutely thinner. Odd field characteristics are often removed, such as doubled serifs, recutting, field dots, remnants of overpunching (more or less), graver slips and even very shallow "spiderlike" die cracks.

b. Like the obverse the reverse dentilation shallows out and can begin to disappear on heavily lapped pieces. This is often compounded from heavily worn dies where the dentilation has been worn away.



c. The Eagle's feather detail near and below the lower right side of the shield is reduced or in some cases completely missing. You will note in the photograph that many of the feathers appear to be "floating" in the field (1819, O-111).



d. The Eagle's tail feathers are thinned or completely missing (lapped away) sometimes giving the appearance that they were never engraved on the working die in the first place. The void flat area in this photo should be filled with feather detail. (1832, O-120).

e. The arrowheads become minutely smaller and begin to "move away" from one another.

f. The arrow shafts become thinner and in extreme cases can completely disappear!

g. The feathers on the arrowshaft can separate from the shaft.

h. The olive branch and berries thin out and the berries can appear detached from the branch.

i. The olive leaves thin out and in some extreme cases can completely disappear (see "single-leafs" below).

Classic Examples of Lapped Capped Bust Halves

The 1813, 50 over UNI variety, Overton 101 and 101a. This is probably one of the most sought after varieties among the 1813 dates and the punching error is one of the most extraordinary mistakes in all of numismatics.



The letters "UNI" were punched into the reverse working die BELOW the eagle! The engraver had the working die upside-down while he was working on it. If you spend a lot of time looking thru a loop, and put yourself in the engravers place, then under magnification, the corner of the bottom (top) arrowhead does, sort of, resemble the eagle's wing tip where the UNI of the legend lettering normally starts. By the time the engraver noticed his error the first three letters of UNITED had already been punched. Interestingly, he did do a remarkably good job of covering up the error — probably first using a scraper and then lapping the reverse die. It also appears that the lapping process was more localized as it did little in the way of weakening the top of the olive branch, talons, claws or arrowfeathers (which were already on the working die when the error occurred).

Later in its die life, a clash occurred and the die was again lapped in a further attempt to remove the clashmarks. At this time it appears that some additional effort was used to remove the still visible UNI as the olive stem and parts of the claw show distinct weakening from the additional lapped effort. Fortunately for us the remnants still remained deep enough in the face of the die so that it did little more than shallow out the overall devices.

The Famous "Single-Leafs." The single-leafs of 1812, O-110a, 1814, O-105a and 1817, O-106a all hold a special spot with collectors and are present on many want lists. These classic examples of extreme lapping help to tell the story of the effects of lapping on our early Federal coinage. The first references that I could find concerning "single-leafs" was in Haseltine's 1881 Type Table. Haseltine's complete description of an 1814 half-dollar is listed below;

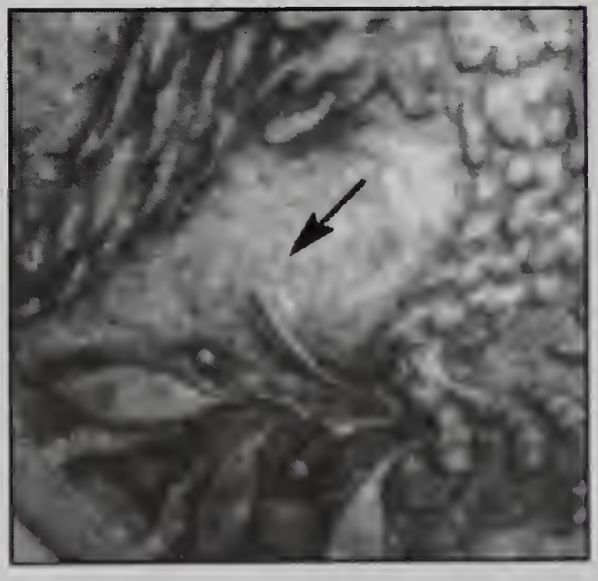
> *"779, 1814: No. 3; the point of upper left star points more to the lower part of upper curl on the forehead; otherwise like No 2; rev., a bunch of three very small leaves point up to eagle's wing (this is on no other variety of this date): S in "Pluribus" is very far to the right of S in STATES;" a light crack runs from P in "Pluribus" to top of eagle's wing; fine; excessively rare variety."*

Haseltin made no reference to the 1817 single-leaf or the 1812 single leaf. Coming back to the 1814 for a moment, in January of 1963 the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine (THE hobby publication of the time) published a short article by Don Taxay titled "The Unique 1814 "Three Leaf" Half Dollar." Taxay stated;

> *"...that after Haseltine's reference of the "discovery" piece that the 1814 three leaves half dollar was not again heard from until 1940, with the marketing of the Gies collection by Stacks of New York. The coin was described as Extremely Fine, a rough equivalent of the Fine of Haseltine's day, and it thus seems probable that the Haseltine and Gies specimens were one and the same."*

Nevertheless, in 1961, Taxay discovered a specimen exactly fitting its description, unattributed as to variety, in the stock of a New York City department store coin department. He correctly stated in his description that;

> *"...the line extending from the P of Pluribus to the top of the eagle's wing, described by Haseltine as a die break, is actually an incusation of the bust, caused by the clashing together of the dies without a planchet between them. The injuries sustained by the reverse die were removed, in part, by polishing (lapping), during which process the stem of the higher of the two berries was also effaced."*



Taxay did not recognize the piece as a later lapped die state and mistakenly thought that the die was reengraved when he further stated.

"Evidently the two upper leaves met the same fate, and the area had to be re-engraved by hand."

Some later researchers after Haseltine, like M.L Beistle, completely missed the 1814 single-leaf, but by the middle of the 1960's most researches like Cobb, Overton and Taxay had established the presence of the now famous (heavily lapped) 1814 Single-leaf Capped Bust half.



The 1817 single-leaf (O-106a), was recognized by Cobb and Overton. In his manuscript Cobb stated in the early 1960's that;

"... the "three leaved" reverse is astonishingly similar to the rarity described in the chapter on 1814...The upper pair of olive leaves exhibits the same bud formation as described earlier: the bottom three sets of leaves are quite complete."

The very rare 1812 single-leaf (O-110a) was known about this time, by a select few, but really didn't make its public debut until the publication of the Third Edition of the Overton book, Edited by Don Parsley in 1990. There are presently 8 examples known of this famous lapped reverse die state and it is different from the other two inasmuch as the lapping removed all but a short tip of the lower leaf of the upper leaf pair. Additionally, the tail feathers are gone as well, as almost all feathers along the right side of the shield and the end of the olive stem, shows that this area was lapped away on the working die.

Since the lapping process could technically remove the leaves from any late state halves then is it possible that other "single-leafs," of other varieties, exist? Yes, and there are those that believe that there is an 1813 single-leaf too. Pictured below is an 1813, O-109 with what appears to be a "single-leaf". Is it? Only time and further study will tell for sure.



Broken Arrows. Halves exhibiting these lapping characteristics are very interesting and highly appealing to many collectors. Two of the most striking examples are the 1829, O-105 and the 1830, O-113. The 1829 is the more distinct of the two showing all three arrowshaft completely lapped away from the talons. The 1830 shows the top two arrowshafts lapped but the third arrowshaft is still connected to the eagle's claw.



1829 O-105



1830 O-130

Specialist Leonard Schramm from New Jersey was one of the first to give these reverse lapped die's the name of "Broken Arrows" — which is very appropriate — and the name stuck.

In conclusion it is my hope that you now have a better understanding of the lapping process and why it was so important to our early first Mint. Take the time to enjoy some of your halves by pulling them out and viewing them under a microscope. Look and study them closely, from a lapping point of view. After all, sometimes "nothing" tells the story.

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1837 Capped Bust Quarter Dollar

David W. Lange

I recently had the privilege of confirming a new variety of the 1837 Capped Bust quarter dollar. It was submitted to NGC by a dealer who has asked to remain anonymous. The dealer believed it to be a new pairing of known dies, but I determined that only the obverse die was previously documented, the reverse being a hitherto unknown die.

This variety has been certified by NGC as B-6 and grades F-12. It has the obverse of 1837 B-1, including the crack described and illustrated in Browning. Its reverse is described as follows:

> The words OF AMERICA are closely spaced to one another, though not so much as on the popular dime varieties. The second T in STATES is higher than the E. The value 25 C. is very low, and the lowermost feathertip is centered directly over the 2. The arrowheads are progressively thinner from lowest to highest, this feature being very obvious. I checked carefully to make certain that this was not just a repolished die state of a known die.

This was an exciting find, and I congratulate both the dealer who made the discovery and the collector with whom it will be placed. The quarter dollars series is a difficult one to attribute, due to the poor quality of both descriptions and plates in Browning's book. I look forward to the new references that are now in preparation.





Treasurer's Report

This treasurer's report is for the eighteen month period ending April 18, 2000 and covering the publication of Volume 12 Issues 1, 2 and 3. During this period we gained four new life members and will soon issue membership member number 1000. Several members have mentioned to me that they would like to see the distribution of our current membership by state, and this milestone certainly merits this data as it is in keeping with our by-laws.

Forty-five states are represented; only Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming are not included! California may lead in the total number, but the adjoining eight state Northeast and Mid-west area has almost 50 % of our total membership.

AK	1	KY	11	NY	32
AL	2	LA	2	OH	32
AZ	6	MA	17	OK	2
CA	49	MD	16	OR	4
CO	6	ME	1	PA	21
CT	8	MI	19	RI	1
DC	1	MN	5	SC	1
DE	5	MO	6	SD	1
FL	15	MS	1	TN	7
GA	5	NC	6	TX	10
IA	2	NE	3	VA	10
IL	21	NH	6	VT	1
IN	3	NJ	26	WA	7
IO	1	NM	2	WI	1
KS	5	NV	1	WV	2

Our treasury is in good shape; membership cards have been forwarded to all life members and members in good standing. We look forward to another successful year and please keep those articles coming.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell J. Logan, Treas.

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
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MANCHESTER, MI 48158

STATEMENT OF
CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR
18 MONTH PERIOD ENDING 14-Apr-2000

CASH POSITION ON 01-Oct-98

CHECKING ACCT		$5,777.48
LIFE MEMB'SP ACC'T		$7,625.00
ON HAND		$185.00
	TOTAL	**$13,587.48**

INCOME

BACK ISSUES&DONATIONS		$2,943.50
INTEREST		$446.69
DUES		$6,420.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIP		$1,500.00
	TOTAL INCOME	**$11,310.19**

EXPENSES

SUPPLIES		$177.73
JOURNAL		$6,945.35
POSTAGE		$321.96
MISCELLANEOUS		$1,801.20
	TOTAL EXPENSES	**$9,246.24**

CASH POSITION ON 14-Apr-2000

CHECKING ACCT		$6,116.63
LIFE MEMB'SP ACC'T		$9,125.00
ON HAND		$485.00
UNPAID CHECK #317		($75.20)
	BALANCE	**$15,651.43**


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